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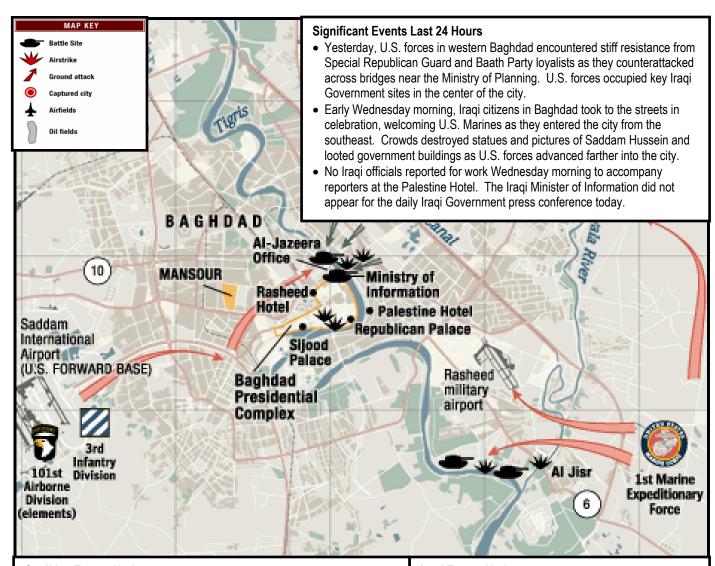


House Armed Services Committee



DAILY SUMMARY – OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM

Current as of 12:00 p.m. EST April 9, 2003



Coalition Forces Update

- Elements of the 3rd Infantry Division occupied central Baghdad, encountering stiff resistance Tuesday from Iraqi Republican Guard and irregular forces attacking across the Tigris River bridges. U.S. forces used tanks and close air support to repel the counterattacks and continued to hold key Iraqi facilities, including the Ministry of Information.
- The 1st Marine Expeditionary Force continued its advance into Baghdad from the southeast, using river crossing points over the Diyala River.
 Marine elements moved north in order to link up with the 3rd Infantry Division, entering the Saddam City section of Baghdad, where they were greeted by celebrating Iraqi citizens.
- In Hilla, the 101st Airborne Division attacked Iraqi forces around the city to eliminate resistance in the last town held by Iraqi forces in southern Iraq.
- British forces control an estimated 80 percent of Basra, and entered into discussions with local leaders about establishing a post-conflict Iraqi government.

Iraqi Forces Update

- Iraqi Republican Guard, Fedayeen Saddam and Baath Party loyalists used approximately 50 buses to attack across Tigris River bridges in central Baghdad yesterday. U.S. reports indicate hundreds of Iraqi soldiers and paramilitary personnel killed.
- Iraqi forces continued to hold the town of Hilla as U.S. forces attacked to seize this last town under Iraqi control in the south.
- In the north, Iraqi regular forces continue to hold the towns of Mosul and Kirkuk and have reinforced their positions near Tikrit, Saddam Hussein's ancestoral.

Sources: Unclassified Department of Defense Sources and Press Reports; map from *The Washington Post*.